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No. 18

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN EDWARDS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Loving Father, You know us as we really are. You see beneath the polished surface of our projected adequacy. You know our true needs. The great need, at the core of all of our needs, is to truly experience Your presence. We need You, Dear God. You delight in us when we desire You above all else. More than anything You can give us or do for us, we long to live in vital communication with You. In this moment of honest prayer, we turn over to You the longings of our hearts: everything from our most personal anxieties to our relationships and our responsibilities. How wonderful it is to know that You have motivated us to pray because You have solutions and resolutions for our most complex problems.

Bless the Senators today with an ongoing conversation with You. Thank you that You are ready to give the guidance, wisdom, and vision that will be required in each hour. Reside in their minds to provide guidance, and replenish their assurance that what You have called them to be and do, can and will make a difference. This is the day that You have made; we will rejoice and be glad in You. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JOHN EDWARDS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 27, 2002.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN EDWARDS, a Senator from the State of North Carolina, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. EDWARDS thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, as was indicated last night, the Senate is going to resume consideration immediately of the election reform bill. There will be a 10 a.m. vote on the Schumer-Wyden amendment, and there will be additional roll call votes expected throughout the day. The majority leader has asked me to announce he has every intention of completing this bill today. The two managers have worked hard on it. We ask those who have amendments outstanding to cooperate with the managers and offer those amendments.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

EQUAL PROTECTION OF VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 2001

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the

Senate will now resume consideration of S. 565, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 565) to establish the Commission on Voting Rights and Procedures to study and make recommendations regarding election technology, voting, and election administration, to establish a grant program under which the Office of Justice Programs and the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice shall provide assistance to States and localities in improving election technology and the administration of Federal elections, to require States to meet uniform and nondiscriminatory election technology and administration requirements for the 2004 Federal elections, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Clinton amendment No. 2906, to establish a residual ballot performance benchmark.

Dodd (for Schumer) Modified amendment No. 2914, to permit the use of a signature or personal mark for the purpose of verifying the identity of voters who register by mail.

Dodd (for Kennedy) amendment No. 2916, to clarify the application of the safe harbor provisions.

Hatch amendment No. 2935, to establish the Advisory Committee on Electronic Voting and the Electoral Process, and to instruct the Attorney General to study the adequacy of existing electoral fraud statutes and penalties.

Hatch amendment No. 2936, to make the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 permanent.

Schumer/Wyden amendment No. 2937, to permit the use of a signature or personal mark for the purpose of verifying the identity of voters who register by mail.

Smith of New Hampshire amendment No. 2933, to prohibit the broadcast of certain false and untimely information on Federal elections.

AMENDMENT NO. 2937

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. shall be equally divided in the usual form for debate relevant to amendment No. 2937.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I understand that is 30 minutes equally divided?

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The time until 10 a.m.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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